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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
YUJI HATADA ET AL. : EXAMINER: SWOPE, SHERIDAN
SERIAL NO: 09/985,689 :
FILED: NOVEMBER 5, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1652
FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASES :

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Requirement for Restriction and Election of Species of June 26, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-5, 10, 15, 20-21, 26, 31 and 36, drawn to alkaline proteases. Applicants also elect, with traverse, Specie D. Claims 1-2 and 6-15 read on the elected species.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-5, 10, 15, 20- 21, 26, 31 and 36, drawn to alkaline proteases; and
- Group II: Claims 6-9, 11-14, 16-19, 22-25, 27-30 and 32-35, drawn to nucleotide molecules and host cells comprising sequences for alkaline proteases.

In addition, the Examiner is requiring the election of a single ultimate disclosed specie from the following:

- Specie A: A variant of SEQ ID No: 1 wherein position 84 has been altered or a polynucleotide sequence encoding said variant;